

NEWS RELEASE

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Anniston City Council approves reinstatement of gas tax

Anniston's City Council approved the reinstatement of a 2 cents-per-gallon-sold gasoline tax at their formal council meeting on Monday, Aug. 11.

The gas tax would be re-enforced upon gasoline retailers in the city and create a revenue stream specifically earmarked for road and bridge maintenance projects, something that has not been done since 2007.

"The residents of Anniston have solely shouldered the cost of road and bridge maintenance since 2007," said Mayor Vaughn Stewart. "For 22 years prior to that year, the 30,000-plus commuters who traveled Anniston's roads daily helped pay for its maintenance cost through a gas tax. The City Council tonight is simply reinstating the gas tax which was in effect from 1985 to 2007 as a means to more equitably distribute the cost of road maintenance between Anniston residents and non-residents."

The proposed gas tax rate of 2 cents-per-gallon is in line with the gas tax rate implemented by hundreds of municipalities around the state that range anywhere from 1 cents to 6 cents per gallon.

Cities similar to Anniston in size and land mass such as Gadsden, Opelika, and Decatur have also been implementing a 2 cent tax.

Stewart said that the city is confident that the reinstatement of this gas tax will bring it up to speed with other Alabama municipalities so that Anniston citizens can benefit once again from a dedicated fund built specifically for road improvement.

"The 2007 gas tax exclusion for gasoline retailers has hamstrung the city's efforts to maintain its roads and bridges," said Stewart.

“Since 2007, we certainly have not seen a decrease in gas prices since this tax was left behind. We do not expect to see an increase once the reinstatement goes into effect. At the end of the day, the free market for supply and demand will determine if Anniston’s gas prices are in line with local areas.”

The City of Anniston

Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in northeast Alabama, Anniston sits as the county seat for Calhoun County and a regional hub for legal, medical, and banking services. Home to the bronze-level mountain bike ride center of Coldwater Mountain, Anniston offers a wide range of recreational options such as biking the Chief Ladiga Trail or visiting the Anniston Museum of Natural History. For more information about the City of Anniston, visit anniston.al.gov.